

PATRIARCH THOMAS HICKEN AND WIVES



Patriarch Thomas Hicken was the only child of Thomas Hicken, of Woodhouse, Leicestershire, England, and his wife, Ann Ward. He was born June 15, 1826, at Burton-on-the-Wolds, Leicestershire, England. His father was a Grenadier soldier in the British army about 20 years; fought in the Battle of Waterloo, and was awarded a silver and also a gold medal for meritorious service. These medals are still in the possession of members of the family in America. He also received a pension for his services in the British army.

When Thomas, Jr., was four, his mother died, and he lived with his father's sister Elizabeth, who was married to Robert Cumberland. They had no children. His opportunities to attend school were scarce, but he learned the stocking weaving trade early.

When about 19, he joined The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saint, being baptized February 15, 1845, by Thomas Effield. About this time, August, 1845, in the Whitwick Church, Leicestershire, England, he married Catherine Fewkes, daughter of Benjamin Fewkes and Culloden Ann Toon. Catherine was a stocking weaver, and though not strong, was an industrious woman and good housekeeper, very kind and affectionate in her disposition. She enjoyed

some of the gifts promised those who accept the gospel. She was a very good seamstress and taught her daughter. Together they made men's suits, dresses, hats and shoes. She died at Heber City on May 18, 1879, after an extended illness. She was mother of seven children.

In 1847, Thomas Hicken was ordained an Elder by Crandall Dunn and sustained as president of the Whitwick Branch of the LDS Church. He presided over this branch until January 1, 1851, when he emigrated to America.

He and his wife and three small children, Elizabeth, Orson, and Addison, crossed the Atlantic on the sailing vessel "Ellen," together with John Crook and Henry Chatwin. Due to an accident the ship put in at North Wales for repair where they remained 18 days. They finally arrived in New Orleans on March 17, 10 weeks after setting sail. By May 2 they had arrived at Council Bluffs. In the spring of 1852, Thomas and another man secured a yoke of oxen, two yoke of cows and a wagon to make the trip across the plains. They came with the Eli B. Kelsey company and made the trip without any serious trouble.

Thomas Hicken resided in Provo seven or eight years, where he built two houses. While here he was active in military affairs, and served in the Black Hawk War. He moved to Heber City in 1860, where he was ordained a High Priest by Elisha Everett, Sr. In 1863 he was called as a special missionary to Summit and Morgan counties to advocate the Word of Wisdom. He was a diligent Church worker and held many offices in ecclesiastical and civil affairs, among them being presiding teacher in Heber City for eight years, and first counselor in Wasatch Stake High Priests' Quorum.

In 1880 he was ordained a patriarch by Daniel H. Wells and John Henry Smith. His personal record noted that he had given 466 blessings.

He was a fluent preacher and an inspiration wherever he went. At various times, in fast meetings, he was given the gift of speaking in tongues. He also had the gift of healing through the power of the priesthood, and many he administered to were healed in this way. At one time a very miraculous healing took place. A dear

neighbor, Christie Giles, was badly afflicted with a very large goiter that covered her entire neck in front. One Sunday morning she was very sick with it and while Patriarch Hicken was out doing his morning chores he was strongly impressed to go to her home. Seeing her condition, he got another elder, Brother Duke, and they went to her home and administered to her and she improved almost immediately. That same day she was prayed for in priesthood meeting and soon after, the goiter was entirely gone. Aunt Christie Giles bore testimony of this healing many times.

All hours of the day or night he was called out to administer to the sick. He took great pains to teach and train his family in the principles of the gospel, was of a gentle and kind disposition, with always a comforting word for those in distress.

As a farmer he raised flax and with the help of his wife prepared it for spinning, and furnished thread for all the community and clothing for his children.

In 1862, as polygamy was being practiced, Thomas Hicken married Mrs. Jane Clotworthy, a widow with four children, and helped her raise her family. Her children had great respect for him and his first wife, and his children respected the Clotworthy family.



He also married Margaret Powell as a plural wife in 1865, and they had five children. She was born in 1847 at Tipton, Staffordshire, England, coming to Utah in 1864 with her parents on the ship "General McClelland." They crossed the plains in Captain Joseph Rollin's train, walking all the way and arriving in Heber City on October 4, 1864. She was an active Church worker of great faith and had a strong testimony of the gospel. She helped with the sick and those in distress, as well as caring for the

dead. For 12 years she was president of the Heber Second Ward Primary, and was an accomplished seamstress, making beautiful wedding dresses, hats and bonnets. She loved flowers and always raised a beautiful flower garden. She died June 18, 1925, in Salt Lake City, and was buried in Heber City Cemetery.

In February, 1915, Thomas Hicken fell, and injured his hip, contracted pneumonia and died March 2, 1915, at the age of 88. His posterity in 1954, as nearly as could be determined, numbered nearly 900 persons.

His children were as follows:

I. By Catherine Fewkes

1. Elizabeth.
2. Orson.
3. Addison.
4. Thomas.
5. Benjamin.
6. John Henry.
7. David William.

II. By Margaret Powell

1. Maria Catherine
2. Sarah Ann.
3. Rachel Emma.
4. Charles Willard.
5. Ruth.

Pioneer

Weaver

Catherine Fewkes - seamstress
shoe maker milliner

Black Hawk warrior

Missionary

Patriarch

Farmer

Healer

Miracle

Raised flax

Margaret Powell - seamstress,

helped sick

cared for dead

milliner

dressmaker

Gardner